

# Children's Newspaper

Every Wednesday—Fourpence

20th August, 1960

## WATCH YOUR STEP, ALL YOU TRAIN-SPOTTERS

**A lot to look for, but danger comes quietly and faster than ever**

The Diesel Pullmans now running on the London-Manchester and London-Leicester routes from St. Pancras are a great attraction for train-spotters. Sleek in blue, with white bands, these streamlined, diesel-electric expresses are daily streaking quietly from city to city at 90 m.p.h. They are worth looking out for, but wherever you wait, whether on a bridge or by the line—on the safe side of the fence—you *do* need to look out for them, for they really are quiet.

It is important to remember that our railways are getting quieter all round. There are more diesels and electrics than steamers. The heavy clang of the signal arm is heard less as the colour lights are installed. The signalman has electric buttons or tiny powered controls instead of a frame of heavy, rattling levers. Shunting yards, which are already fast losing the clank of loose-coupled goods wagons, are also losing the ring of the shunter's pole as more electronic magic takes over the braking and sorting of wagons. Even the lines themselves are quieter as long-welded lengths replace the short sections which gave a "clickety-clack" as the train wheels passed over the joints.

There is, indeed, a lot to look out for on our modernised railways; and as they get faster and

quieter, the men working the lines need even greater alertness against danger. But the *only* danger is on the railway side of the fence. On that side the danger is not only real, it can be frighteningly sudden.

Now, it is natural for most of us to be curious about notices which say *DANGER*, or to be irritated by boards which read *KEEP OUT* or *KEEP OFF*, but the risk of a train bearing down without warning at 90 m.p.h. is far too real to be ignored. Even a wagon being quietly shunted could catch you unawares. Trespassing on railway lines has always been dangerous; now it is suicidal.

Overhead electrification is something else for railway enthusiasts to treat with caution. In some areas—notably on some eastern lines out of London and in the Glasgow and Manchester-Crewe-Liverpool districts—spotters already see changing skylines as the masts go up to carry the cables.

Some 25,000 volts of electricity are being hung over British Railways in those cables. You can get some idea of how much that is by remembering that most homes manage with only about 250 volts, and most cars with only twelve volts.

Is it safe to have all this power over our heads, or under our feet where the railway runs under bridges and through tunnels? With elec-

tric traction, more spotters than ever will want to watch trains move down the straight at something like 100 m.p.h. But what about those cables?

Well, British Railways recently carried out tests to show the men who drive trains and work on the tracks how safe the new system is provided they know the equipment is there, and leave it alone.

One test showed that the clearance between the overhead wire and trains beneath was many times more than adequate. This was done by lowering the wire down on to the locomotive. It was not until engine and wire were only a few inches apart that the current "sparked" the gap.

### Dangerous folly

In another test, a dummy man "sat" on the top of the locomotive. Again, it was a matter of inches between his head and the wire before the wire flashed danger. In fact, railwaymen are not permitted to work within nine feet of the overhead wire unless the power has been cut off. Clearly, it is dangerous folly to climb a mast or clamber on to a footbridge parapet or the top of a coach.

The railway enthusiast must never forget that we are moving into a period of faster, quieter, and more exciting railways, on which there will be a lot to look out for. But there is only one safe way to keep a lookout: from the right side of the fence.

## RED INDIAN SAILORS



These two Red Indians, Crazy Cloud (left) and Little Hawk, are both in the Royal Canadian Navy. They are known as Able Seaman Rabbitt and Able Seaman Lecoy. They were in the party which presented a totem pole to the naval gunnery establishment at Whale Island, Portsmouth. Formerly all Canadian naval gunnery officers were trained there.

## Farewell to the farthing

Farthings will not be legal currency after this year. The little coin with the perky Jenny Wren has "outlived its usefulness," says Mr. Barber, Economic Secretary to the Treasury.

Certainly the farthing was useful in its day.

Our grandparents can remember when it could buy an ounce of sweets, and there used to be a well-known Farthing Shop in Clerkenwell, London, which offered astonishing farthingworths to its young customers. In addition to sweets, there were little books with coloured pictures, pencils, pens, whip-tops, windmills on sticks, and many other toys, some of them made by the two cheerful sisters who ran the shop.

While farthings were prized by children in Victorian and Edwardian times, older folk often found them a nuisance; when there was a farthing change at a draper's shop, for instance, a packet of pins was generally given instead.

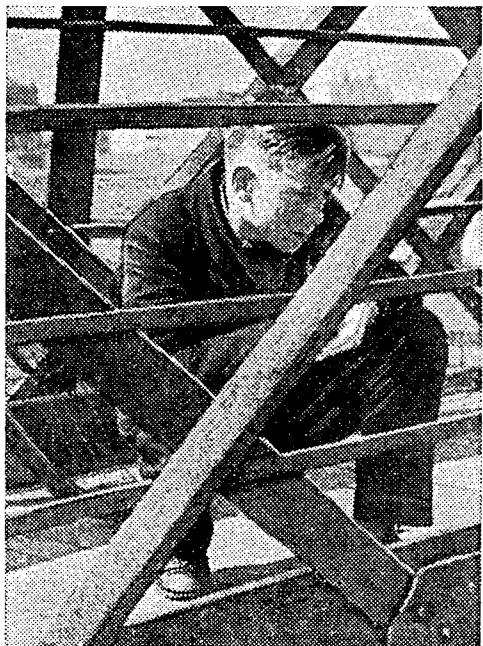
The history of the farthing

begins with the Anglo-Saxon silver penny, which was deeply impressed with a cross so that it could be broken into four equal pieces called fourthlings. Separate silver farthings were first issued in the reign of Edward I (1272-1307), and copper ones in 1672. Bronze farthings were first struck in 1860. They pictured the familiar figure of Britannia, which was replaced by the wren in 1937.

No farthings have been minted since 1956, but there must be 750 million of them in existence, and where they have all got to is a mystery. Every household must have some—tucked away in odd corners, lying forgotten in unused egg-cups—and they will be of no value unless spent or changed this year.

It is doubtful if many people will lament the passing of the farthing; indeed, the younger generation may rejoice, for presumably in time it will also disappear from their arithmetic.

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Spotting in safety from a bridge



# FOREIGN SECRETARY IN THE LORDS

By the CN Diplomatic Correspondent

In the first major Government changes since he became Prime Minister early in 1957 Mr. Macmillan appointed a member of the House of Lords, the Earl of Home, to be Foreign Secretary in succession to Mr. Selwyn Lloyd. This step caused much argument and the Opposition even censured the appointment in a House of Commons debate just before Parliament rose for the Summer recess.

WHAT really was the trouble?

It was that the Commons always claim the right to question both the Prime Minister and the Foreign Secretary in their House which, because it is elected by the people, is directly responsible to the people. The House of Lords is not elected.

But there is nothing in the British constitution which says that either the Prime Minister or the Foreign Secretary must sit in the Commons.

They are not governed by quite the same considerations as the Chancellor of the Exchequer, who must sit in the Lower Chamber because the Commons have long since won the right to control the nation's finances.

## Earlier examples

There is, in fact, plenty of precedent for the Foreign Secretary sitting in the House of Lords. As recently as 1940 Britain had a peer—the Earl of Halifax—as Foreign Secretary; and before him, just after the First World War, there was the Earl of Curzon.

In 1923, when Lord Curzon held this office and at the same time three other peers held similar high office as Secretaries of State, a move was made to enable Ministers to speak in either House. But permission was refused by the Commons by 244 votes to 100.

It is interesting to recall that soon afterwards, when Prime Minister Bonar Law died, he was succeeded by a commoner, Mr. Stanley Baldwin, although Lord Curzon was considered to have every qualification for No. 10, Downing Street. Lord Curzon



The Earl of Home

was rejected because he was a peer and sat in the House of Lords and it was thought the Prime Minister should be in the House of Commons and answerable to the members there. The last Prime Minister to sit in the Lords was the Marquess of Salisbury (grandfather of the present Marquess) at the beginning of this century.

Advocates of the system, Mr. Macmillan has now revived, have two good arguments in favour of the Foreign Secretary being in the Lords. One is the never-ending stream of documents and telegrams from the Queen's Ambassadors abroad which the Foreign Secretary must read, whether he is at home or abroad, day in, day out.

This task would be easier if, once or twice a week, he did not have to appear in the Commons to answer questions during Question Hour.

The second is that, in any case, he may be absent for many weeks abroad, attending international conferences. But when he goes abroad for a conference he just

takes the work and cares of the Foreign Office with him. Taking part in talks with foreign Powers is an *extra* burden. It does not relieve him of his other work.

Yet Lord Home, as Foreign Secretary, will have some relief by reason of another appointment Mr. Macmillan has made. Mr. Edward Heath, former Minister of Labour, and now Lord Privy Seal, is to have special duties at the Foreign Office and special responsibilities for dealing with Foreign Office questions in the House of Commons.

The controversy over Lord Home is not ended. A good deal will depend, of course, on how the system works, and, in turn, that will largely depend on the qualities of Lord Home, who during the past five years has had considerable diplomatic experience as Secretary of State for Commonwealth Relations.

## CLEAN CLOTH

A German chemical firm has developed a finish for textiles which prevents stains. Spilt ink, coffee, and other liquids stay on the surface and can be wiped off.

## Jubilee of The Potteries

The City of Stoke-on-Trent is celebrating its 50th anniversary. That does not sound much of an age for this time-honoured potters' centre, but the six towns of which it consists—known the world over as The Potteries—did not become united until 1910, when Tunstall, Burslem, Hanley, Stoke-upon-Trent, Fenton, and Longton were united as the County Borough (now City) of Stoke-on-Trent.

This corner of North Staffordshire has been a land of potters since the time of the Romans, but it was in the 18th century that Josiah Wedgwood, the Father of English Pottery, began to make the products of his native Burslem famous far and wide.

In 1730, when he was born, Burslem was a little place, making the crudest earthenware. In his kilns he showed men how to blend and shape mounds of clay and marl, and how to give them abiding beauty by baking, firing, painting, and glazing. Today Stoke-on-Trent is the centre of Britain's pottery and clayware industries, employing 61,000 people.

But pottery is by no means the whole story of modern Stoke-on-Trent. Other thriving industries include collieries producing more than six million tons of coal a year, factories turning out a variety of products from rubber and paper to refrigerators and furniture. There are also brass foundries, and iron, steel, and aluminium works, all providing employment for another 90,000 workers.

## NEWS FROM EVERYWHERE

Wise old owl

A submarine electronic device is to be used in a new attempt to find the treasure worth £30,000,000 which is supposed to lie in the wreck of a Spanish Armada galleon at the bottom of Tobermory Bay, off the island of Mull.

### 5s. HADDOCK

Over 1,000 haddock marked with a yellow plastic tag have been released in the North Sea. Anyone catching one of these fish should send the tag to the Marine Laboratory at Aberdeen, together with details of where they made their catch. A reward of five shillings will be given.

H.M.S. *Discovery*, Captain Scott's Antarctic ship, has returned to her berth at the Victoria Embankment, London, after being refitted at Chatham.

### CANADA'S MONSTER

A Canadian professor of zoology has gone to a lake in Manitoba to look out for a strange hump-backed creature called the Manipogo, which is said to make its appearance there.

Between 200 and 300 examples of British goods will be displayed at the great Canadian National Exhibition which opens in Toronto on 24th August.



Robert Taylor of Branstons, Staffordshire, with his tame owl, Oswald, which he has had since it fell from its nest when quite young.

Britain had 24,401,000 employed people at the end of June, the highest number ever recorded.

American test pilot Joe Walker became the world's fastest man recently. He flew the rocket-powered North American X-15 research aircraft at 2,150 m.p.h.

### SORRY, OUR MISTAKE

Contrary to a recent statement in the CN, the new Dungeness Lighthouse will not be ready for use until later in the year.

### THEY SAY...

I HAVE always argued that a girl, if she has ability, should go in for engineering... If a girl can work a sewing machine, she can be interested in a lathe.

Mr. Frederick Peart, M.P.

WHILE umbrellas are said to have been carried by Guards officers at Waterloo, I do not think they would be suitable for the police.

The Home Secretary, in a written Parliamentary reply

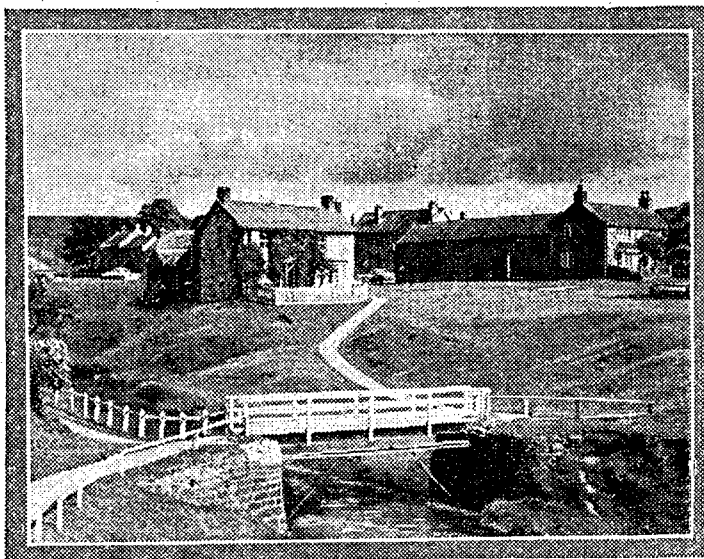
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**OUR HOMELAND** Hutton-le-Hole, a village on the River Rye in the North Riding of Yorkshire



The Children's Newspaper, 20th August, 1960

## Edinburgh's Festival of the Arts

A Service of Praise and Thanksgiving in St. Giles' Cathedral next Sunday will open this year's Edinburgh Festival, and for the following three weeks some of the world's leading performers will be in the Scottish capital, presenting a wonderful programme of music, ballet, and drama to a host of visitors from many lands.

The ballet is more international in scope than ever before. In addition to the Royal Ballet, there will be dancers from Spain and India, and Leonide Massine's newly-formed Ballets Européens, a company recruited not only from countries throughout Europe, but from as far afield as Persia.

The feast of music will include performances by the Leningrad Orchestra, generally acknowledged to be the best in Russia, who will be paying their first visit to Edinburgh. There will also be a welcome return of the Glyndebourne Opera, whose five productions will include Verdi's *Falstaff*, and the first performance in Britain of a moving French opera, Poulenc's *La Voix Humaine*.

Not least among the highlights of this great festival will, of course, be the rousing Military Tattoo on the Edinburgh Castle Esplanade every evening except on Sundays and Thursdays.

## OLYMPIC POLISH



Two skilled workers polishing the marble statues at the entrance to the swimming pool to be used in the Rome Olympics next week

## BOUNCING ON A RHINO

A teacher in South-West Africa who fell from a tree on to a charging rhino was tossed back unhurt into the branches.

## FIFTY SATELLITES TO LINK THE WORLD

An American telephone company has plans for putting 50 satellites into orbit round the Earth, at heights of about 3,000 miles, to act as amplifiers for phone calls or television programmes from continent to continent.

Special ground stations would transmit the phone calls or TV service to the nearest satellite, which would relay them, amplified, to the appropriate ground station on the other side of the world. From there the signals would be sent forward through the normal systems.

This ambitious scheme, which would put the whole world within transmission range at all times, has been submitted to the U.S. Federal Communications Commission.

## WRITE A CAROL AND WIN A PRIZE

Can you write a carol? If so your talents can be put to good use in the National New Carols Contest organised by *Sunday Companion*. There are two sections.

The first is for writing both words and music—the music to be in four-part harmony, or for voices in unison with piano or organ accompaniment, or a combination of both. Premier Award £25; Second Award £10; and

## Cradle of the Radio Age

Forty acres of land at Poldhu, Cornwall, have been presented to the National Trust by Lord Nelson of Stafford, chairman of the English Electric Company. An area that has been called the Cradle of the Radio Age, these acres include the site of the Marconi station from which the first radio signal was flashed across the Atlantic.

Of Poldhu radio station nothing now remains—it was dismantled shortly before the start of the Second World War—and the granite column shown in this photograph is the only reminder of a momentous event which took place there nearly 60 years ago.

Guglielmo Marconi chose the site at Poldhu to build a "wireless station" in 1900, when radio was



still largely a laboratory wonder. On 12th December, 1901, came the announcement that signals from Poldhu had bridged the Atlantic and were being received by him at St. John's, Newfoundland.

That news, in one dramatic moment, took wireless telegraphy out of the laboratory and into acceptance as a practical new system of communication. It also confounded the sceptics who had said that radio waves would never reach beyond the horizon.

For many years Poldhu remained as a commercial radio station and later became an experimental station for other Marconi developments, including the Marconi-Franklin beam system.

## SUPER SNAPS WITH THE ILFORD SUPER SPORTI

Here's a proper camera with all the controls you need for super snaps. You set your Super Sporti for Sunny, Light Cloud or Dull weather. Next you focus for Close-ups, Groups or Views. And then you gently push the button and get 12 pictures from every roll of 120 film.

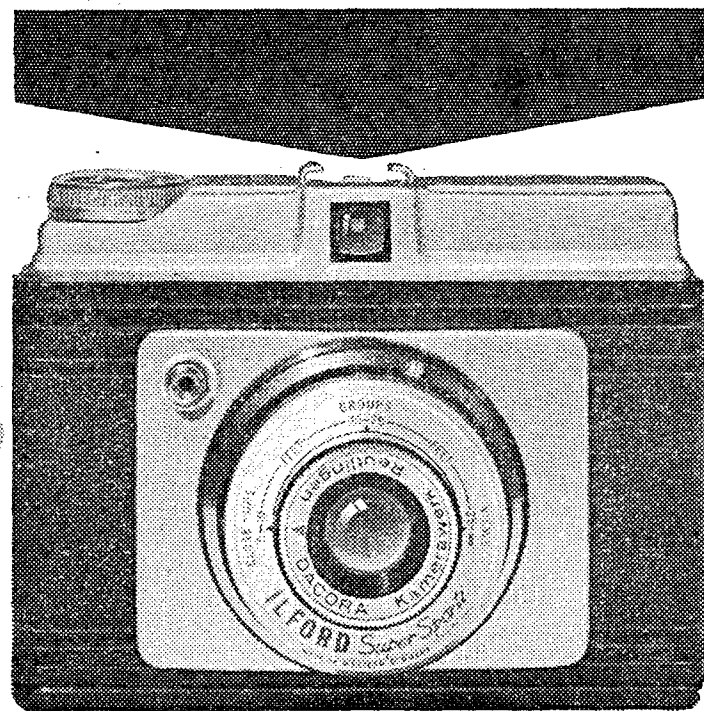
The eye-level viewfinder outlines your picture first. And a special mechanism stops you taking two pictures on the same bit of film. You get the thrill of flash, too.

It's simple to use the Super Sporti—and you'll soon learn a lot about photography. In fact, if you are thinking about photography as a hobby, there couldn't be a better camera to start with! It's a good idea to ask for an Ilford Super Sporti.

### ILFORD SELOCHROME PAN

That's the film to ask for—whether you have a Super Sporti or any other roll-film camera. SeloChrome Pan is the all-purpose film made by Ilford, who also make the special films for nuclear research. So remember always to say "Ilford SeloChrome Pan, please".

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# THESE SEVEN ARE REALLY NINE



MAKE a diary note of the Temperance Seven Personnel. This odd musical combination comes on the air for the first time in B.B.C. Saturday Club on the Light on 27th August.

Actually there are nine of these jazz players. But they like the sound of Seven, and so, I hope, will you.

Led by Cephas Howard, they include Alan Swainston Cooper, the "pedalling clarinettist"; Philip Harrison, who says he was the

real inventor of the clockwork hansom cab; Colin Bowles, "veteran balloonist"; and Paul Macdowell, "megaphone vocalist." John R. T. David claims he helped Edison evolve the phonograph, and John Watson wants us to believe he won the Bardic Crown in 1902.

Judging from their picture, I will even accept their claim to have appeared at the Pasadena Cocoa Rooms in 1904.

# WEEK'S HOLIDAY FOR ONLY FIVE SHILLINGS

A WEEK'S holiday for five shillings? If this seems impossible, tune in Children's Hour on Friday and listen to *Five Shilling Holiday*, adapted by Muriel Levy from a story by Lorna Hill.

A group of young people accept the challenge of a grown-up who believes it cannot be done. They set out on ponies for the Northumbrian coast, spending the first night in a barn. Soon they realise they will have to earn money by odd jobs. That is the real beginning of their adventures.

**PROGRAMMES  
and PEOPLE on  
TV and RADIO**  
by  
**Ernest Thomson**

# Scarecrow, Horses, and Flying Piano

A GROUP of horses in a field near London the other morning must have imagined a B.B.C. film unit had gone crazy. It was shooting a scarecrow.

"We took it from all angles," Producer Alan Sleath told me. "And made it do things. Of course, the horses came into the picture, too."

All this was for a 15-minute "songs-at-the-piano" spot which Geoffrey Rand is giving at 6.35 p.m. in B.B.C. television this Thursday.

Called *At Random*, it introduces five songs Geoffrey has written himself, as well as a number of interesting stunts. One song is about a scarecrow.

## HERE COMES CHARLIE

NEXT week is Charlie Drake Week in B.B.C. television. Charlie is to have a Festival of Repeats at 7 p.m. each day, from Monday to Friday. All the episodes are taken from his most recent series.

"A song about a balloon has a white piano suspended in the clouds by cords," said Alan Sleath. "We have a specially made puppet caterpillar for another number. In a library sequence Geoffrey is reading a book when he hears himself singing. He goes over to the piano and accompanies his voice, which had been 'taped' earlier."

The funniest song, perhaps, is about all the things that can go wrong when you appear in television.

Geoffrey Rand appeared in a Max Jaffa programme last year, but this will be his debut as a solo artist. If viewers like his stunts, he may be given a series.

## Eric Sykes goes skin-diving

ERIC SYKES goes skin-diving in this Thursday's episode of his new series in B.B.C. television. In the picture he looks well equipped for any emergency, but if you know Eric Sykes you also know that anything may happen, even in such a well-run establishment as the Kingsbury Baths,



London, where the filming took place.

Do not be surprised if Richard Wattis, the next-door neighbour, comes in for some splashing, to say nothing of Hattie Jacques, who plays Eric's twin sister.

## ON THE LITTLE RAILWAYS

LAST April a picture in C.N. showed Bill Hoole, retired driver of crack expresses on British Railways' Eastern Region, at the controls of a tiny Atlantic class loco at the Model Railway Exhibition. It was at that time that he gave an exciting talk in the Home Service about his railway career.

Although Mr. Hoole has retired he is still driving trains—on the narrow-gauge Festiniog Railway in Wales. This Wednesday he is a guest in B.B.C. Junior TV's *Railway Roundabout*, which includes film taken on the Festiniog, Talyllyn, and Vale of Rheidol Railways.

## Ici on parle Francais

THE first French lessons for schools on I.T.V. will be started by Associated Television early next year, when they begin schools broadcasts for the first time.

The programmes will be *French from France*, teaching French background rather than grammar, and *French for Sixth Forms*, showing aspects of life in France.

A.T.V. will find it a big help to have on their Educational Committee the cultural counsellor of the French Embassy in London, M. Cyrelle Arnavon.

To begin with, the lessons will be seen in the Birmingham area and possibly on Southern Television. Later it is hoped to network them to other regions.

## Uncle Gee's most ardent fan

UNCLE GEE of Anglia TV began to think he was getting the most wonderful fan mail in the world. Over a period he received 22 letters and poems from 11-year-old Pauline Vlastos of Ipswich. When the 23rd came along, together with a letter from Pauline's mother asking whether her little daughter might come to see Uncle Gee and his models he jumped at the chance of meeting his most ardent fan.

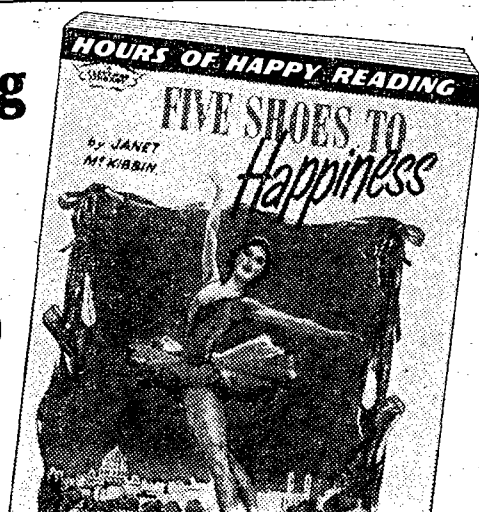
So Pauline became a "V.I.P." (Very Important Pauline) for one day. She went to Anglia House, Norwich, and was welcomed by Hugh Gee. He showed her the actual studio where he does his broadcasts and introduced her to his faithful black Labrador "Coalie."

All this, by the way, was a "prize" for Pauline's good work at school.



Uncle Gee explains a model to Pauline Vlastos

**Thrilling  
stories  
you will  
want to  
read**



**A story of the Ballet . . .**

**No. 336. FIVE SHOES TO HAPPINESS**

Featuring a company of English dancers who are in Rome to compete in a Ballet Festival. There they meet a runaway Italian girl who possesses a pair of beautiful ballet shoes with a secret . . .

**No. 335. BERYL AT THE BOYS' SCHOOL**

The boys liked having her in charge of their tuckshop. Beryl liked serving them. But there was someone who didn't like her—one of the masters—who knew that all his schemes would fail if Beryl took part in the school's historical pageant.

**Price 1/- each—NOW ON SALE.**

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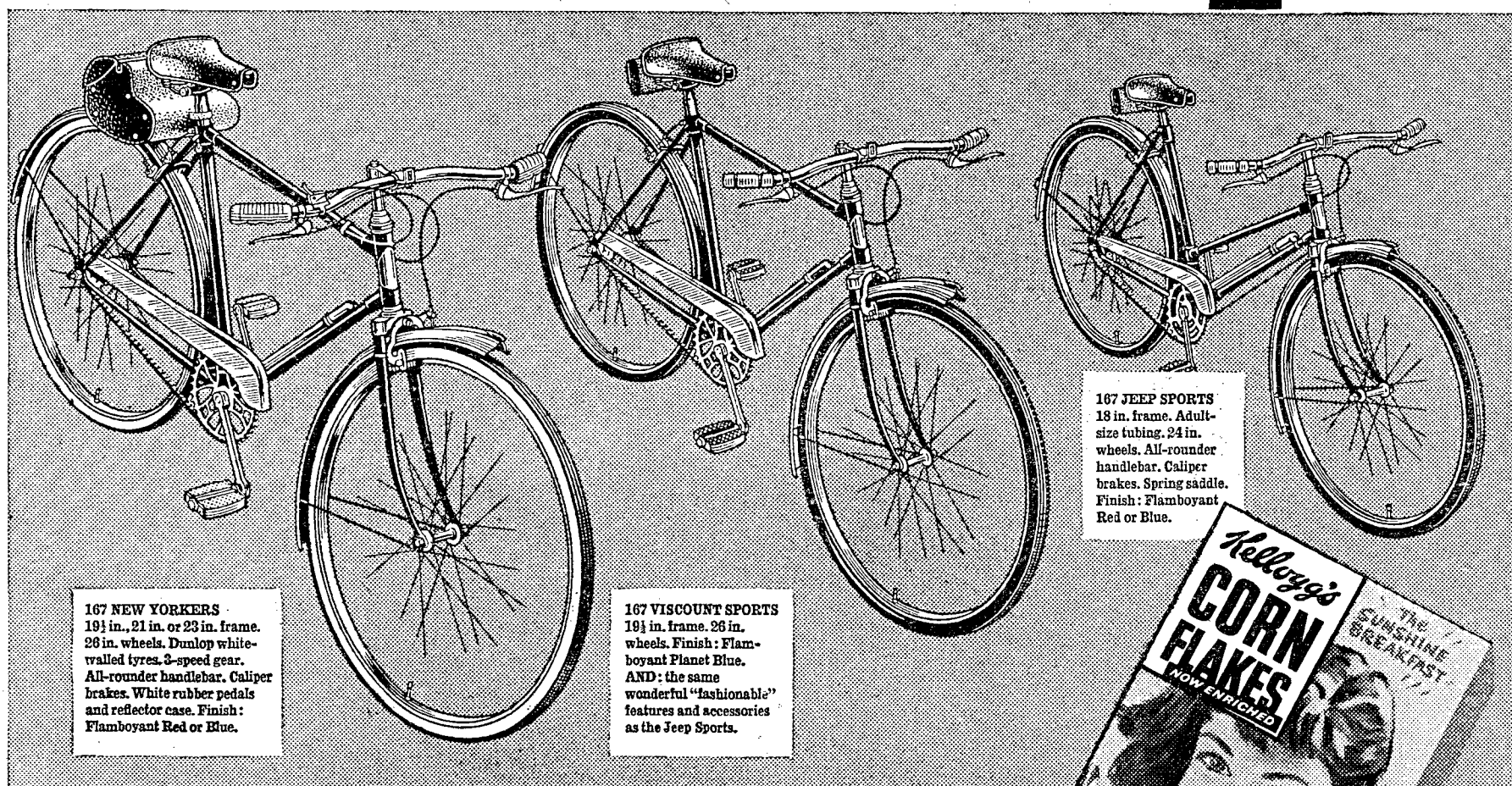
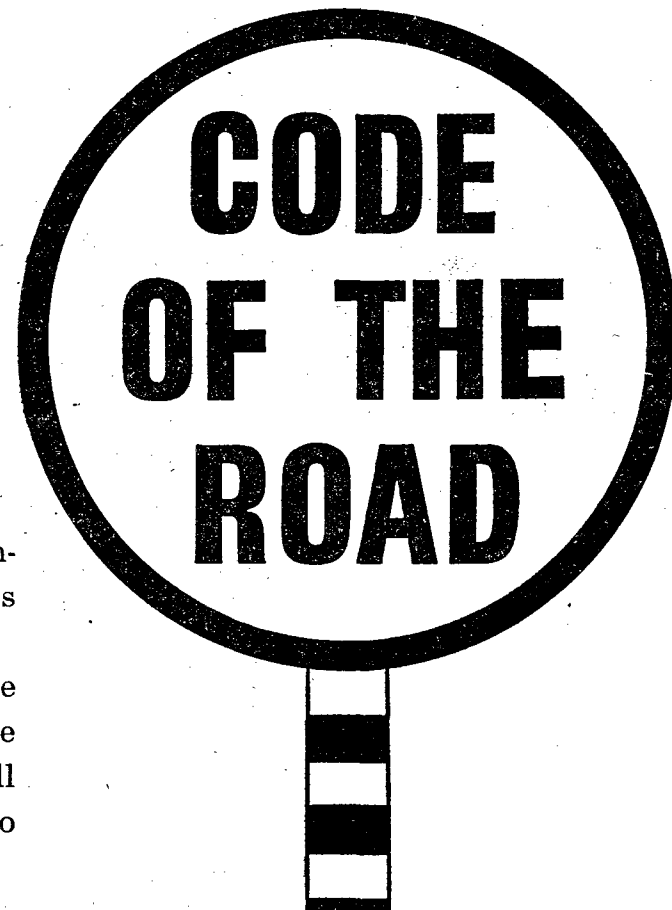
# NEW Kellogg's CORN FLAKES COMPETITION

## 501 Hercules Bikes *must be won!*

—and every entrant wins 12 new coloured bicycle cards

The latest Corn Flakes packets—marked “Code of the Road”—carry an entertaining contest for boys and girls up to and including the age of 16, run by Kellogg's in collaboration with the Royal Society for the Prevention of Accidents.

All you have to do is: (1) have a good look at the picture on the back of the packet and find the twelve ways in which the rules of the Highway Code are being broken; then (2) make up a simple safety slogan (like “Do your kerb drill before you cross!”); and (3) fill in the entry form on the packet; and (4) send it to us, enclosing two Kellogg's Corn Flakes packet tops with your entry.



### 501 Hercules Bikes—BOYS' OR GIRLS' MODELS

**3 AGE GROUPS** For the up to 9 years old—167 Jeep Sports  
For the 10 to 13 years old—167 Viscount Sports  
For the 14 to 16 years old—167 New Yorkers

Everyone who enters, whether they win a bike or not, gets a new series of 12 coloured picture cards, describing the colourful history of the bicycle.



**SEND IN YOUR ENTRY NOW—KELLOGG'S CORN FLAKES 'CODE OF THE ROAD' CONTEST**





Study in concentration among the Second Violins



Happy return of the Youth Orchestra from a performance in Hamburg



Rehearsal for a string quartet during a course held in Scotland

# TOP YOUNG MUSICIANS

## THE STORY OF THE NATIONAL YOUTH ORCHESTRA

ON the 20th, 22nd, and 23rd of August, about 140 boys and girls, all under twenty, will be giving three concerts in Scotland—at Aberdeen, Dundee, and Glasgow. They belong to the National Youth Orchestra of Great Britain, which is sponsored by *The Daily Mirror*.

Founded in 1947, this youthful orchestra gave its first performance at Bath in the following year, and has steadily gone on playing its way to success ever since. It has performed at the Edinburgh Festival, and the Proms in the Royal Albert Hall, and in several foreign cities. It has played, and won sincere praise from critical audiences, in Paris, Brussels, Amsterdam, Hamburg, and Berlin.

How has it been done? How has it been possible to assemble, from all parts of Britain, three times a year, about 140 boys and girls, most of whom are still at school, and weld them

into an orchestra capable of playing great music under great conductors?

The answer is a wide network of auditions throughout the country, skilful selection, first-class teaching—and hard team work by everybody concerned.

Like many a fine enterprise, this one started as the idea of one enthusiastic musician—an idea of what *might* be. And many there were on hand to say that it would never work.

The musician is Dr. Ruth Railton, the orchestra's Musical Director. She was a pianist, but during the war she was teaching in Leicester, where she started her first Junior Orchestra. She thought that the amount of good talent among the boys and girls in this area deserved better opportunities than could be provided locally.

### The great aim

After the war she decided to start a National School of Music for very talented young people. She put aside £500 from her concert fees as a starting fund. The aim was to find the best young musicians in the British Isles, bring them together during school holidays, and give them the chance to study individually with great teachers, and play together as a Symphony Orchestra. She then printed pamphlets asking for applications to join this school and sent them off to schools throughout Britain.

She got exactly 16 replies.

This suggested that the chil-

dren had never been shown the pamphlets. So she got out a poster announcing the scheme and asked music shops to display it in their windows. Then the applications began to pour in.

Then the organisers of the Bath Festival for the Spring of 1948 heard about her plans and suggested that a young people's orchestra would be an attractive item to include.

So now she had the first offer for her orchestra to appear—but no orchestra. There were just four months in which to arrange auditions for several thousand applicants all over the country, to hear them, choose them, and rehearse them. But she managed to do it all on time. They played at that Bath Festival and were an outstanding success. A fine start had been made.

It was now quite clear that the orchestra must continue, and although for a long time money was short, the orchestra has met every holiday since they started in April 1948.

In the Spring of this year they met at Brighton College—empty for the Easter holidays—and it was there that a CN writer spent a Sunday with them. They were to give a concert at The Dome on the following Wednesday, and had already been rehearsing for three days. Their conductor for this course, André Vandernoot, had been compelled to fly back to Belgium for 24 hours and so work was going on under the various professors. There is one for each instru-



Dr. Ruth Railton, Musical Director

ment, and one group: wood cussion, and

To find out was practising big courtyard listened. From up the from over the

In the gym once leader monia Orchest of the violins.



Tympani and cymbals—part of the percussion team



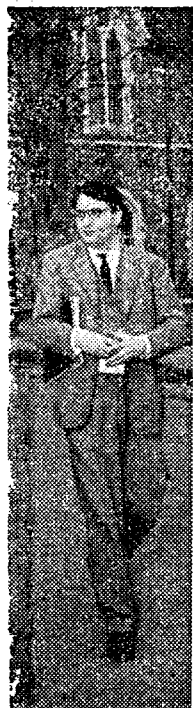
In harmo



er, 20th August, 1960

# SIC MAKERS

## ORCHESTRA OF GREAT BRITAIN



ilton with Con-  
ré Vandernoot

in charge of each  
wind, brass, per-  
o on.

where any section  
one stood in the  
of the college and  
nbone blasts came  
re, drum thumps  
re.

Leonard Hirsch,  
of the Philhar-  
ra, was in charge  
Tiptoeing quietly

in behind them 'one saw 44 busy  
backs in an array of sports shirts  
and 'pullovers, girls' plaits over  
coloured cardigans. But every  
figure had a violin gripped under  
the chin and 44 bows moved to-  
gether and then came to rest at  
the conductor's bidding.

"You must attack that passage  
explosively," he admonished.  
"Now, once again."

"Accent," he called at them  
through the throbbing strings.  
"Accent." Then he stopped  
them and leaned forward, speak-  
ing a little sadly.

"You are not producing an  
accent—but a shuffle!"

Then they all tried again and  
gradually, though there were still  
some mistakes, this passage from  
Dvorak's *New World Symphony*  
began to take on life. And it  
was thrilling to hear.

In the central hall the percus-  
sion—tympani, bass drum, cym-  
bals and so on—were being  
taken through the score. It  
needs practice and great concen-  
tration to count, say, 24 bars  
rest while the orchestra is going  
full pelt, and then come in with  
a clash of cymbals at the right  
split second.

In an upstairs classroom, the  
brass were at work—horns, trum-  
pets, trombones, and two tubas  
—playing a Wagner overture.

There was a light-hearted  
touch to be seen on the door,  
where someone had pinned a  
notice. "In case of fire, run like  
mad. Last man shut the door."  
It was just a hint that young  
musicians off duty enjoy them-

selves like everybody else.

After tea there was a full  
rehearsal conducted by Ernest  
Hall, who used to be the prin-  
cipal trumpeter in the B.B.C.  
Symphony Orchestra. The 140  
boys and girls, the pick of their  
age-group as individual players,  
were now learning to be an  
orchestra.

They worked for an hour  
through the *New World Sym-  
phony*. There were frequent  
stops. At one point the con-  
ductor, in his shirt-sleeves and  
working harder than anybody,  
put down his stick and said,  
"Now I want you to learn a bit  
of 'orchestral discipline. If I call  
on, say, the double basses to  
play a passage, don't look round.  
A lot of players don't like it."

### After many pauses

There were many other  
pauses to put the polish on a  
passage here and there. And so  
he took them through to the  
three notes which are the climax  
of the symphony. He asked a  
lot from them and they gave  
him all he asked.

Dr. Railton recalls that one  
foreign conductor who arrived  
for his week with them was  
unable to speak much English.  
At rehearsals he almost confined  
himself to two words: "Goot"  
and "Orreeble."

As the week went on the  
"Orreebles" got fewer and on  
the night of the concert they  
were very "Goot" indeed.

The National Youth Orchestra  
of Great Britain always is!



Trumpets and other members of the Brass Section



Interval for refreshments—and exchange of impressions



ny—a girl, a smile, and a 'cello.



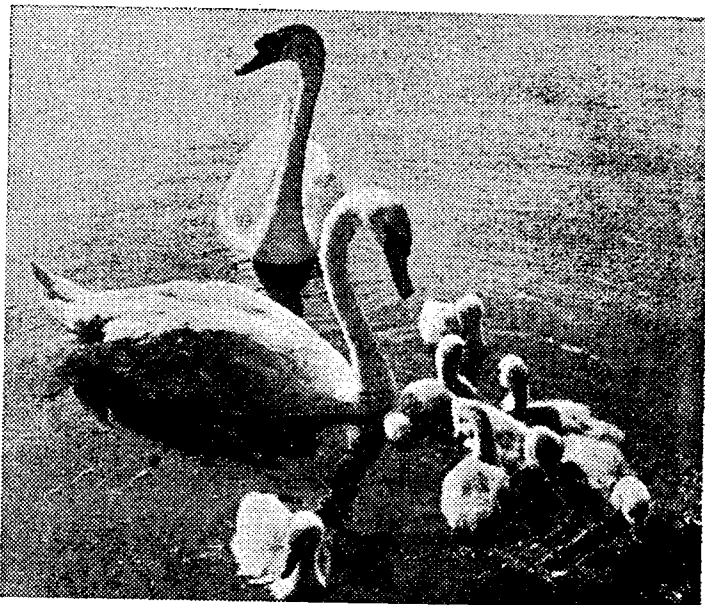
Bass clarinet among the wood-wind



Walter Susskind conducting a rehearsal of the full orchestra



# Biggest and most stately of British birds



A family of swans in a park at Redcar

T. S. Richmond, Jr.

The swan with arched neck  
Between her white wings mantling proudly, rows  
Her state with oary feet.

THUS, in *Paradise Lost*, did Milton describe the bearing of the stately swan, which is the biggest of British birds.

There are three kinds, of which the mute swan is the common one, to be seen on every pond and lake and river throughout the kingdom, and easy to recognise because of its bill, orange with a black knob at the base. Otherwise its plumage is all white, though the young ones called cygnets are ashy grey in colour.

The mother swan, incidentally, is called the pen, and the father the cob.

Mute swans are huge birds, about five feet long, half of this being represented by their head and neck. Equally large is one of our two rarer swans, the whooper, but this can easily be distinguished by the fact that its bill is yellow at the base and black at the tip.

Whooper swans have occasionally been bred in Scotland, and are regular Winter visitors to some parts of the north of England and Scotland. There are usually some to be seen on Lake Windermere.

Our other uncommon swan is Bewick's swan, like the whooper

but smaller—usually only four feet long. It is also a Winter visitor, especially to parts of eastern England and Ireland.

The familiar mute swans often collect in very large parties, especially where there is a good supply of food, such as is to be had at a refuse wharf. This is why there are so many swans on the Thames in London, and on some other estuaries, such as that of the Stour, which divides Essex from Suffolk. Not long ago I estimated that there were between 300 and 400 mute swans congregated on the Stour estuary near Manningtree.

Nobody quite knows whether the mute swan is a native bird of Britain or not. The probability is that it was originally a native breeding bird of our undrained fenlands, as it still is in Sweden, Poland, and other Baltic countries.

## Sizeable meal

A bird of generous proportions, however, supplied a sizeable meal in the Middle Ages, when meat was scarce in the Winter months, and the fenland swans probably gradually became domesticated to help eke out the rations. Four or five hundred years ago the ownership of swans was a valued privilege, resulting in an elaborate system of marking their bills to show ownership.

The only relics of this today survive on the Rivers Thames and Yare (Norfolk). On the Thames there is an annual ceremony called "swan-upping," when all the new young swans are caught and marked with the marks of the three remaining swan-owners of the Thames: the Queen; and two city companies, the Dyers and the Vintners.

As swan-ownership ceased to be

# ON RECORD New discs to note

ANNE ROGERS: *Blue Moon*, *My Wonderful One*, *I Could Have Danced All Night* on HMV 7EG 8564. The delightful star of *My Fair Lady* is at her best in these songs from this charming show. (EP. 10s. 7½d.)



MINDRU KATZ: *Favourite Pieces* on Pye PEP101. The favourite pieces in this case are three piano compositions by Chopin. The *Polonaise Number*

6 in A flat major, must be one of this composer's most widely performed works. The two studies, in C sharp minor and in E major, require just such a strong technique as we find in this performance. The disc is to be highly recommended to students of Chopin, especially in view of the low cost. (EP. 8s.)

MARIO LANZA and CARUSO: *Favourites* on RCA JET101. This is most certainly the bargain of the week. Two long playing records are presented in an album, with excellent sleeve notes and photographs, for the price of one. Lanza sings Italian melodies, all of which have special associations with his idol, Caruso. On the second disc Caruso is heard in arias from operas by Puccini, Verdi, and Donizetti among others. It is fascinating to compare these two famous tenors, each fated to die at the height of success. (LPs. 39s. 9d.)

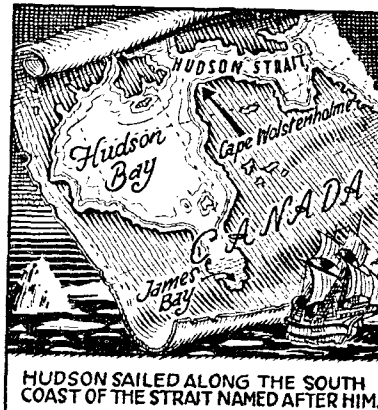
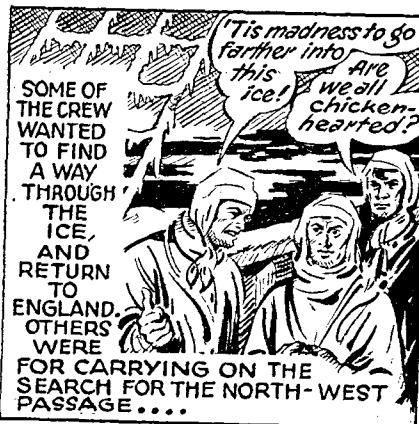
ROLF HARRIS: *Tie Me Kangaroo Down Sport* on Columbia 45 DB 4483.



Rolf is very familiar to television viewers as the man who draws the Fuzz and Willoughby cartoons. This recording is extremely popular in his home country, and it could well become as much of a favourite here. (45. 6s.)

RICHARD FITTER

## NORTH-WEST PASSAGE—Henry Hudson's great voyages (4)



MUST THE DISCOVERY LEAVE HER BONES IN THIS UNKNOWN BAY? SEE NEXT WEEK'S INSTALMENT



# THE HOUSE OF BLUE DRAGONS

by Geoffrey Trease

It is 1807, at Midport, on the Dorset coast, a favourite place for smugglers. The Vicar's children, Andrew and Sarah, follow a man who has been prowling about the churchyard during the night.

## 9. Who walks in the night?

"QUIET!" Andy gripped Sarah's arm till it hurt. His lips were against her ear; she felt his warm breath. "Keep well behind—well behind."

"But—"  
"If anything goes wrong you can run back. And yell for help."

there was open downland with no sign of habitation. The stranger's steady footsteps showed that he was following the beaten path, which showed faintly and greyly through the darkness. Andy himself stole along silently, keeping to the soft turf beside it, and he judged (from Sarah's quietness) that she was doing the same.

How far was this midnight chase going to take them?

Andy would have given a good deal to know. When he had proposed following the stranger he had expected a short journey through the silent streets and back-lanes of Midport. Then,



The man in the armchair must be Mr. Charles Collingwood

Like mad. Otherwise, keep quiet. Understand?"

"Yes."

"Good girl."

Andy let go her arm and ran softly forward across the dew-soaked turf.

It was much better for his sister to follow at a safe distance. Then she would have no chance to talk, and risk giving away their presence to the unknown. Also, if Andy himself walked into trouble, Sarah might be able to escape and give the alarm.

So they went forward through the gloom, first the stranger, then Andy a good way behind, and finally, after another long interval, his sister.

Luckily, there was no need to keep dangerously close to their quarry, for there was no risk of losing him in the darkness. From far below to their left came the continuous murmur of the surf at the foot of the cliffs. To the right, so Andy remembered from their walk the previous morning,

when their quarry had vanished into some house or other, they would merely have had to note the doorway in question and return safely to their beds.

This tramp along the coast was a very different affair. Yet, having come so far, where was the sense in giving up before they had collected some of the information they wanted? Up to now, they neither knew who the night-wanderer was, nor what he looked like, nor where he was going.

Andy licked his lips nervously and trotted forward. He could only hope and pray that they would be safely back in their rooms before their parents woke up. If anything went wrong—if Father knew that he had gone out on this adventure and taken his young sister with him—he could look forward to the hiding of his life.

They passed the spot where, the day before yesterday, the children had met Captain Taylor, the riding

Continued on page 10

## PRIZES FOR GOOD QUESTIONS—

Just Ask Mr. Therm  
Book Tokens to be Won



Lots of people are interested in answers to interesting questions, and on this page are three of the sort Mr. Therm is always being asked. Can you think of a good question? Write it on a plain postcard, with your full name, address, and age, then send it to Mr. Therm's Mailbag No. 12, c/o Children's Newspaper, 3 Pilgrim Street, London, E.C.4 (Comp.).

Each week Mr. Therm will award two guinea Book Tokens for each of the three best questions for answering. If more than one of you send the same question, the first received will be chosen.



## WHAT IS A WILL-O-THE-WISP?

A book token has been sent to Lindsay Ann Borrow of Lougham, Dorset, for this question.

A will-o'-the-wisp is the name given to those ghostly flickers of flame which you sometimes see dancing over marshy ground. In primitive times, when roads were poor and there were no street lights to guide the way, travellers would often mistake the flickering will-o'-the-wisp for the light in a friendly cottage, and go towards it, only to come to grief in a marsh. And because of incidents like these, the superstitious folk of bygone days said that the will-o'-the-wisp was the work of evil fairies who liked to lure travellers to their doom.

It was also known as jack-o'-lantern and Ignis fatuus (from the Latin, meaning foolish fire) and one poet wrote of:

An Ignis fatuus that bewitches  
And leads men into Pools and Ditches.

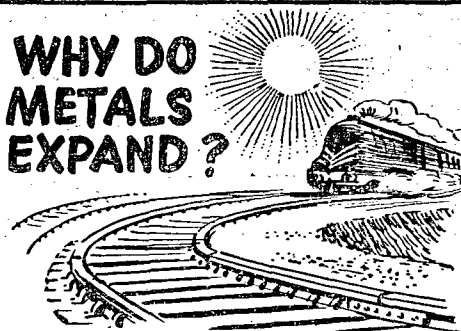
Even today, no one is absolutely sure what a will-o'-the-wisp is, though it seems probable that the flame we see is marsh gas setting fire to itself spontaneously.

Marsh gas (or methane) is produced when plants and animal matter decompose, and it can be very dangerous, especially in a coal mine. The miner calls it "fire damp," and he dare not take a naked flame near it, otherwise there would be a terrible explosion.

In some districts today the methane is being drained off from the mine-workings and added to the supplies of gas. You could almost say that will-o'-the-wisp cooks someone's dinner in those places!

But when marsh gas is made in a laboratory—it is yet another useful by-product of coal—it can be changed into substances like chloroform and other important medical drugs.

## WHY DO METALS EXPAND?



This question wins a book token for David Tervet of Woodford Green.

We think of metal as something very solid indeed. Just rap your hand on an iron gas pipe and see for yourself! But metal—like all matter—is in fact made up of countless particles called atoms. These particles are like solar systems in miniature, with a "sun," and "planets" revolving round it.

When we heat a piece of metal, you can imagine that these "planets" spin faster round their suns, and swing out, just as a chairplane at the fairground does. And as the atomic solar systems expand, so does the metal as a whole.

Engineers have to take this expansion into account in their work. For example, gaps have to be left between the lengths of railway line. If there were no gap, and the sun shone, the rail would expand and buckle. Then there would be a crash! So a gap is left, and that is why we can feel that di-dum-di-dum as the express goes along at top speed.

Thermometers, too, use the principle of expansion. The mercury (which is a metal) in your thermometer expands when the temperature rises, and contracts when it goes down.

And Mr. Therm, as he explained here the other week, takes advantage of the fact that metal expands in the thermostats of his gas cookers, so enabling Mummy to get on with other tasks while the dinner is cooking itself!

## WHAT IS SACCHARIN?

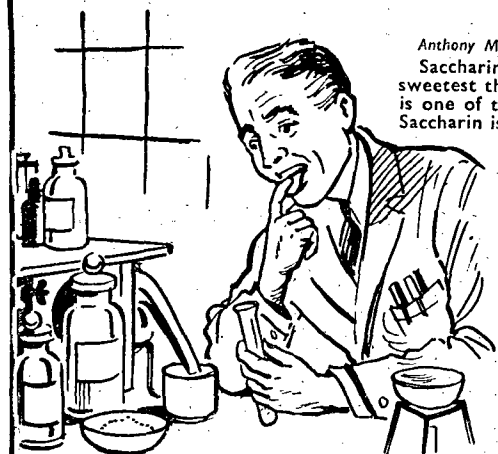
Anthony Martin of Cranbrook wins a book token for this question.

Saccharin, which we can use instead of sugar if we want to, is the sweetest thing we get from Mr. Therm! It comes from coal-tar, which is one of the substances produced from coal when gas has been made. Saccharin is used all over the world in industry, medicine and the home. Yet it was found quite by accident.

One day in 1879, two American scientists, Ira Remsen and C. Fahlberg, were carrying out some experiments with a coal-tar product at Johns Hopkins University. That evening, after the day's work was over, Fahlberg washed his hands thoroughly and went home to his dinner.

While he was eating, he noticed that the bread tasted sweet. But eventually he realised that the sweet taste came from his hands and arms and not from the bread at all. This was a curious thing, and Fahlberg went straight back to his laboratory and tested all the chemicals he had been working with until he found the particular substance that had such remarkable powers.

Fahlberg's discovery was given the commercial name of saccharin (from the Greek word for sugar) and it has been in widespread use ever since. It is of great value to people who, for medical reasons, cannot take sugar; and in time of war, when there is often a shortage of natural sugar, it is a great boon to people with a sweet tooth. But you have to use it sparingly, for saccharin is up to 300 times as sweet as sugar!



Issued by the Gas Council

## GAS GOES HAND IN HAND WITH PROGRESS IN THIS MODERN AGE

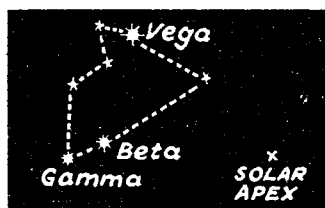


# Pole Star of past and future

THE constellation of Lyra, the Lyre, is now not far from overhead in the evening. Although it comprises only a small group of stars, the constellation has long been of importance because its chief star is the brilliant Vega.

The brightest star in the northern heavens, Vega shines with an intense bluish-white light. It has a diameter nearly 2½ times greater than our Sun, and as its surface is very much hotter, it radiates about 50 times more light and heat. However, it is about 1,707,850 times farther away, its light taking about 27 years to reach us. Its temperature averages 11,200 degrees Centigrade, nearly twice that of our Sun.

Between 13,000 and 15,000 years



ago Vega was the "Pole Star" of the Heavens. It was the one star that always appeared in very much the same place—almost due North. Its value to night travellers was immense.

By early Greek times its role as Pole Star had been taken over by Thuban, a less brilliant star in the constellation of Draco; but in some 10,000 years' time Vega will once again be the "Pole Star." This is because the "tilt" of the Earth completely changes its direc-

tion during a period of 26,000 years.

By then the Earth will have become nearer to Vega by many millions of miles. It comes about thus: Our whole Solar System—Earth, the Sun, and all the great "family" of planets, moons, and comets—is travelling at an average rate of about 750 miles a

## LOOKING AT THE SKY

minute towards a region in space known as the *Solar Apex*. (Its position relative to Vega is indicated by an X on the star-map.) But Vega is also speeding through space, in a different direction from our Solar System, so they can never approach very near.

Another star of great interest in Lyra is Beta. It is composed of an astonishing pair of egg-shaped suns of great immensity, which revolve round each other at great speed in only 12 days, 21 hours, and 47 minutes.

Though their centres are about 40 million miles apart, so immense is each sun that their surfaces are sufficiently close to raise great permanent tides on each of the hemispheres that are nearest together. These great suns alternately pass one in front of the other, which produces a reduction in their combined light, as seen from the Earth, from 3.5 magnitude to 4.5. Because of their great distance, this reduction in light actually occurs 233 years before we see it.

G. F. M.

## WORLD OF STAMPS

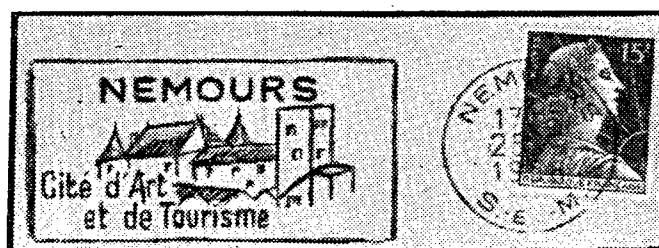
# Postmarks intended to catch the eye

RECENTLY I promised to say more about "slogan postmarks," the ones which carry a picture or an advertisement as well as the place name and date.

Slogan postmarks are not new. In fact, they were introduced 300 years ago by Colonel Henry Bishop, who became Postmaster-General in 1660. He used several circular marks to advertise some of the mail services available to Londoners. One announced that

help the cause of Road Safety or of Civil Defence; others celebrate anniversaries such as the centenary of the Cadet Forces. This month Belfast is using a slogan which tells us that "Belfast addresses need a District Number."

Other countries, too, find slogan postmarks very useful. In France, almost every town has its own special design. The one pictured here is from Nemours, a country town south of Paris, and is in-



the "Essex Post goes and comes every day." Another said that "The post for all Kent goes every night from the Round House in Love Lane and comes every morning."

A few years later, Bishop resigned from his position as Postmaster-General and for the next 250 years the G.P.O. forgot all about his useful little advertisements. Not until the First World War were slogan postmarks used again, when they advertised National Savings.

Now the G.P.O. uses slogans for many purposes. Some are to

tended to encourage tourists to see its sights, which include a famous castle and an ancient church.

If you decide to add slogan postmarks to your collection, it is best to cut a rectangular piece of the envelope, about two by four inches, to include the stamp as well as the postmark.

SOME of the most amusing stamps being issued at present come from the North African republic of Tunisia. The latest series marks the fourth Arab Boy Scout Jamboree, held in Tunis this month.

Three of the stamps depict various scouting activities. An-



other shows the Scout salute, and if you look closely at the design, you will see the head and shoulders of a Boy Scout at each of three upraised fingertips, and that the sleeve is in the shape of a tent.

FROM the United States comes a new stamp in aid of a good cause. It shows a man in a wheelchair operating a light press in a factory, a symbol of the many useful jobs which can be done by handicapped people. C. W. HILL.



# THE HOUSE OF BLUE DRAGONS

Continued from page 9

officer. Now they were nearing the derelict village, in the cove where the landslide had taken place years ago. As the shadowy figure in front turned off down the old path, plunging downhill towards the ruined cottages, Andy could have hugged himself with delight and relief.

For the last ten minutes he had been hoping against hope that this would happen. If he could track the stranger to the deserted village, and see if he went to the one cottage which was still inhabited, then there would be something worth reporting to Captain Taylor.

## Down to the cottage

He paused until Sarah came up with him. He dared not risk losing contact.

"It's only me," he breathed.

"Andy!"

"Ssh! Listen. Don't you come any farther. I'm pretty sure this fellow is going to the cottage. But I must check. Wait here. I won't be long."

He slipped away from her and picked his way gingerly down the steep cliff-path.

It was an eerie moment. Even in broad daylight the derelict village had been a ghostly place, peopled with the phantoms of those who had once lived there. Now, in the murk of midnight,

with the sea hissing and moaning restlessly at the base of the cliffs, it was terrifying.

Biting his lip hard, Andy forced himself to go on. Once, when the pebbles shot noisily from under his foot, bouncing and bounding into the darkness below, he nearly lost his nerve and turned back. But at the same moment a light sprang to life, filling one window of the cottage and making a homely square of yellow against the black wall of the night. It gave him courage. There were ordinary human beings in front. Also, the stranger must by now have reached the cottage and have gone inside, so there was little danger that he had heard the sound of the falling pebbles.

The lamplight, streaming through the uncurtained window, helped him to cover the last 50 yards through the crumbling ruins of the village.

The casement stood open to the warm night air. He could hear men's voices as he drew near. Two paces from the very window-sill he paused, crouching behind an unkempt shrub which had not been pruned for many a year, and peered into the room through the screen of its branches.

The lamp on the table shone on white paper, quill pens, and an inkwell.

It shone on the gilded lettering of numerous books in a bookcase and on others which seemed to be strewn everywhere.

It was the sort of room Andy would have expected a poet to have.

And the man lounging elegantly in the armchair must certainly be Mr. Charles Collingwood, the eccentric young poet Dora had told them about. The other man was hidden from Andy's view, but his voice was rough and husky, and he sounded like a farm-hand or a fisherman.

## On the wrong trail?

"I didn't rightly know what I ought to do," he was grumbling.

"I'm sorry," replied Mr. Collingwood politely. "I wasn't expecting you tonight. I'd been taking a walk."

Andy's heart sank. So it was Mr. Collingwood, not the other man, that he had been trailing! And if it was Mr. Collingwood perhaps there was no connection at all with the smugglers. Hadn't Dora explained? Mr. Collingwood often went for long walks at night, thinking out his poetry. What was mad for other people was quite normal for poetic gentlemen.

"I didn't know whether to wait or what."

"You could have left me a note."

"I'm no scholar, sir. I can't write."

"No? Perhaps as well. Someone else might have seen it before I did. Dangerous." Andy pricked up his ears at the last word. Dangerous? Perhaps after all he was not on the wrong scent.

"Never mind," Mr. Collingwood continued smoothly. "No harm done. You waited, like a sensible fellow, and here I am. Now what's the message?"

"The run's fixed for tomorrow night, sir."

"Where?"

"Barbary Chine. High tide."

"That means about half-past one in the morning."

"Ay, sir. It'll be a big run, I reckon. There's three dozen pack-horses waiting."

"Excellent. Barbary Chine. I'll be there. That's all, then?"

"That's all, sir."

Andy saw Mr. Collingwood slip a finger into his waistcoat pocket. A golden guinea flashed for a moment in the lamplight. A ragged sleeve was thrust forward from the shadows, a rough hand took the coin.

"Thank 'ee, sir. Then I'll be getting along now."

Andy crouched lower behind the bush. The door opened and, for a few seconds, a bright beam stabbed the gloom. Then the door was closed and a bolt shot. Heavy footsteps went crunching away up the hill.

Andy waited to give the man a long start. He had had enough of shadowing for one night. The information he had gathered should be quite sufficient.

## Sarah disappears

Suddenly an alarming thought struck him. Suppose Sarah, waiting anxiously at the top of the cliff, mistook the stranger for himself? It would be just like her to pop up out of the darkness with a sisterly greeting—and only discover her ghastly mistake when it was too late.

Perspiring with horror, and little caring now how much noise he made, he hurried up the steep slope between the silent ruins. No cry, no sound of struggle, came from above. Relieved, he regained the crest of the cliff where he had left Sarah—and then his relief faded.

Sarah was not there. Nor, despite all his frenzied whisperings and appeals, did she appear. She had completely vanished.

To be continued



# PUZZLE PARADE

## Name the kings

Can you name the kings of England who bore the following nicknames?

THE Dane; the Confessor; the Unready; the Great; the Lion-heart; the Conqueror.

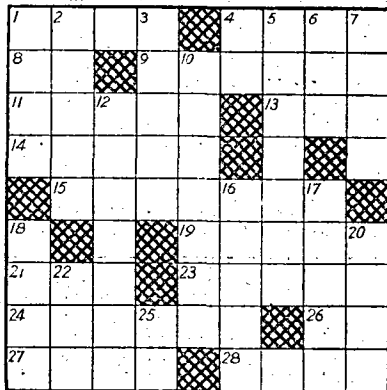
## RHYMING RIDDLE

My first is sometimes written on,  
My next's a common weed.  
My whole's a place where you may see,  
The horses browse and feed.

## Tangled rivers

In the list below, the rivers appear to have meandered into the wrong towns. Can you put them all back in their correct places?

BERWICK-UPON-AVON  
Newcastle-upon-Trent  
Ross-on-Tweed  
Stoke-on-Tyne  
Stratford-upon-Wye.



## Crossword Puzzle

READING ACROSS. 1 Native of Scotland. 4 Island. 8 Alternative. 9 Sat down. 11 You may have a rasber of this for breakfast. 13 Torn piece of cloth. 14 Projecting nose of an animal. 15 Qualify. 19 Small rooms, as in a prison. 21 Be in debt. 23 Follow. 24 To strip. 26 French for of. 27 Collections. 28 Knotted.

READING DOWN. 1 Weeps bitterly. 2 Tall wading bird. 3 Fish. 4 Exist. 5 Walks slowly. 6 Meadow. 7 Rim. 10 Lured. 12 Satisfied. 16 Principle or dogma. 17 Escape. 18 Poles or perches. 20 A flower may grow from it. 22 Tiny. 25 You and me.

Answer next week

## Reading the date

PUT a coin in the bottom of a bowl of soapy water and ask your friends if they can read the date on the coin. When they say "No," get a thin tumbler and lower it, mouth downwards, right over the coin. No water will enter the glass and the coin will be seen clearly enough for the date to be read.

## WORD SQUARE

AGITATE  
Wheel cover  
Common metal  
Tear apart.

## Singular and plural

REMEMBER, though box in the plural is boxes,  
The plural of ox should be oxen, not oxes;  
And remember, though fleece in the plural is fleeces,  
The plural of goose is not geoses nor geeses;  
And remember, though house in the plural is houses,  
The plural of mouse should be mice, and not mouses.  
Mouse, it is true, in the plural is mice;  
But the plural of house should be houses, not hices.  
And foot, it is true, in the plural is feet;  
But the plural of root should be roots, and not reet.

## NAME THE BIRDS

By putting the name of a bird in the spaces below, you will be able to form the words suggested by the clues. Can you do so?

-----ous Very hungry  
-----se Varied  
-----bar Iron lever  
-----y Channel or hollow  
-----ch Tear off.

## COUNTRIES AND THEIR CAPITALS

EACH illustration is meant to suggest the name of a country. When you have the names, can you link each with its capital?



## DOUBLE MEANINGS

In each of the following pairs of numbered sentences, the blanks represent a word with two quite different meanings. See if you can name them all.

Answers are given in column 5

- The culprit should — his head in shame.  
The rhinoceros has a very thick —.
- Her sister was dark but she was —.  
Roll up for all the fun of the —.
- He filled the — of his pipe with tobacco.  
He was not a good batsman, but he could certainly —.
- Many — palms grew in the oasis.  
Her clothes were fashionable and up to —.
- Put your luggage in the guard's —.  
The victorious general rode in the — of the procession.
- He stayed at home as he was not feeling —.  
We threw a coin into the —.

## Flying saucer—one horse-power



A worker in an electrical instrument factory in Tokyo has been building low-power hovercraft for some time. His latest model is an air-car or "flying saucer" which travels at over 30 miles an hour a few inches from the ground. Its little engine is of one horse-power.

## ANSWERS TO PUZZLES

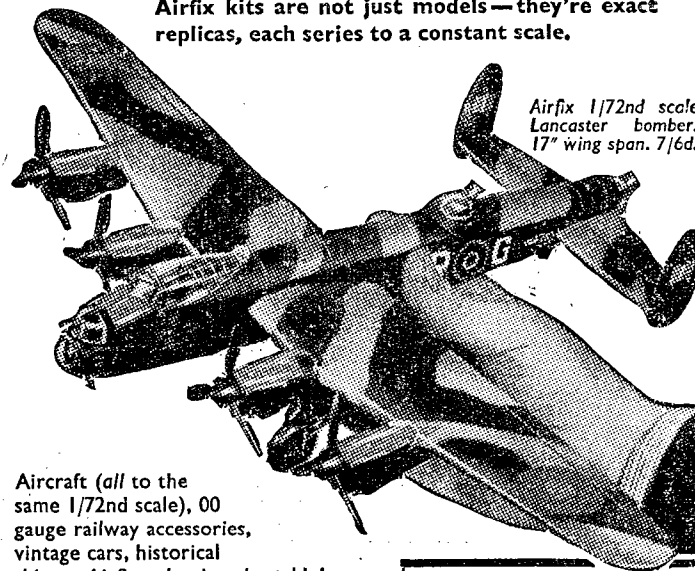
Name the Kings. Canute; Edward; Ethelred; Alfred; Richard; William. Rhyming riddle. Pad-dock. Name the birds. Raven-ous; diver-se; crow-bar; gull-y; wren-ch. Countries and their capitals. Greece-Athens; China-Peking; Cuba-Havana; Poland-Warsaw; Spain-Madrid; Canada-Ottawa. Tangled Word square. rivers. Berwick-upon-Tweed; Newcastle-upon-Tyne; Ross-on-Wye; Stoke-on-Trent; Stratford-upon-Avon. STIR TYRE IRON REND

## DOUBLE MEANINGS

1. Hide. 2. Fair. 3. Bowl. 4. Date. 5. Van. 6. Well.

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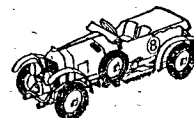
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# Band will welcome the winner

## SPORTS MEETING AT GRASMERE

SET in a hill-surrounded arena near the village where William Wordsworth lived, the Grasmere sports include events which can be seen nowhere else in the world. On Thursday, thousands of holidaymakers will flock to this Lakeland arena to hear the smocked bellman announce, at noon, that this year's meeting is about to start.

Prominent on the programme is wrestling in the traditional Cumberland and Westmorland style, believed to have been introduced by Norse settlers nearly a thou-

sand years ago. This differs from any other type of British wrestling in that a bout is not started until the contestants have clasped hands behind each other's back.

The winner of this event, in which some families have excelled for centuries, is the acknowledged Champion of the Dales.

Another event to be seen nowhere else in the world is the guides' race. Runners scramble to the top of the steep, 1,000-foot Butter Crag, along a rocky ridge often shrouded in mist, and return with hair-raising speed down a treacherous scree. The winner, acclaimed Hero of the Dales, is greeted by the band with the traditional tune of "See the Conquering Hero Comes."

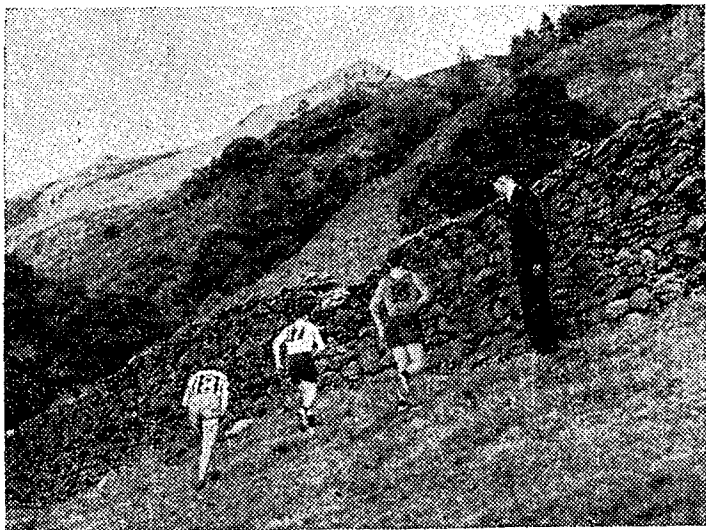
There are also two hound trails, again peculiar to Lakeland sports meetings. A trail of aniseed is laid for the hounds over some eight to twelve miles of the surrounding countryside. Released like arrows at the word "Go," the hounds streak along the rugged trail often at the rate of a mile in under three minutes.

As the winning hound races over the finishing line the band again breaks into a melody. This time it is: "D'ye Ken John Peel."

These three events give Grasmere its special appeal; but there are also the usual running, jumping, and cycling races.



Wrestling—Cumberland and Westmorland style



Just one of the obstacles in the guides' race

## BALLET IS HARD WORK

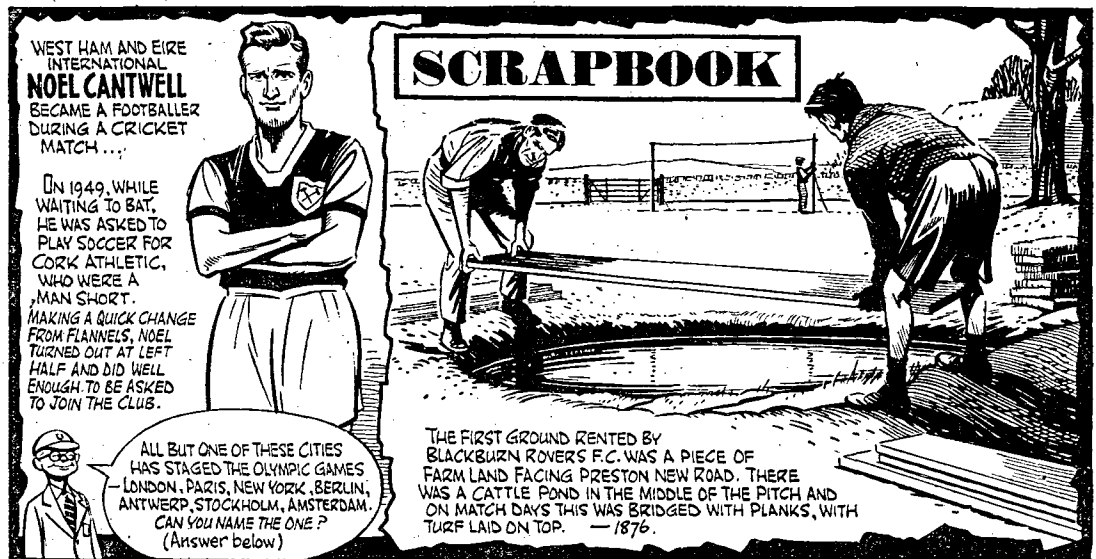
THE soccer season is here again. The League programme has already started in Scotland, and in England the leading clubs have their first game in this week. For these clubs, training is now reaching its peak, but none is working harder than the players of Poole Town. But they are working hard at ballet!

"And believe me," says player-manager Ray King, "it's hard work. The results, I hope, will tell the results of it."

## Plain sailing

"SAILING is not a sport to be learned by trial and error," writes a famous yachtsman in his foreword to *Sailing for Beginners*, by J. Kerr Hunter (Nelson, 7s. 6d.).

True enough! The ideal way of learning is at a sailing school, such as the ones organised by Mr. Hunter for the Scottish Council of Physical Recreation. Failing that, this book provides an excellent alternative. The author, who has taught hundreds of beginners, has the knack of giving instructions in an easy-to-understand way.



## Britain's cyclists rally at York

THE Cyclists' Touring Club will be holding its annual weekend rally at York on Saturday and Sunday.

This year the rally incorporates the Golden Jubilee celebrations of the British Cycle Industries Association, and to mark the occasion there is to be a road race starting from Coventry and finishing on the rally ground.

An exciting event on Saturday will be the final of "The Ridings" cycling proficiency championships in which children from all Yorkshire will compete.

Other events will include a fancy-dress parade of children on decorated bicycles, and a map-reading competition. The day will conclude with a camp fire gathering on the rally ground.

On Sunday morning there will be a special religious service in York Minster, and the climax to the weekend will come in the afternoon with the finish of the Coventry-York race.

## The final Test

WHEN Jackie McGlew and his South African cricketers go to the Oval for the fifth Test match, which starts on Thursday, they will be looking for their first victory at Surrey's headquarters. The first time the Springboks appeared in a Test at the Oval, in 1907, the game was drawn. Of the seven other Tests here four were drawn and England won the remainder.

Incidentally, England enter this match with a new record in their possession—16 Test matches without defeat. It is nearly 50 years since any country achieved this feat.

## OLYMPIC SCRAPBOOK

YOUNGEST of British competitors in next week's events is likely to be Kenneth Lester of Wallingford, Berkshire. Kenneth is 13. He will cox the London University crew in the coxed pairs event.

KENNETH will not be the youngest competitor, however. That distinction is probably reserved for 12-year-old Luciana Marcellini, who will represent Italy in the 200-metres breast-stroke.

BRITAIN'S soccer players have a tough draw in the Olympic tournament. They first meet Brazil, amateur counterparts of the World Cup holders, then play Italy, who beat them 5-1 a few months ago. Also in their section is Formosa. The winners of the four groups play two semi-finals and a final to decide the gold, silver, and bronze medal winners.



Beryl Noakes hopes her mascot, Leo the lion, will bring her luck when she swims for Britain.



Marianne Tucker, Britain's only woman competitor in the kayak events, out for a training session.

How long can you hold your breath? Probably not nearly as long as Peter Macken of Sydney who will represent Australia in the modern pentathlon. During a recent test Peter retained a lungful of air for 2 minutes 40 seconds—about double that of most athletes.

EARLIER this year cyclist Eric Thompson was not considered as an Olympic possible, but he is now a member of a tandem "team" that may bring Britain a gold medal. Eric has won many championships in the past and has represented Britain in the Olympics and Empire Games, but it was felt that his days as an international racer were over. Then in an Olympic trial Dave Handley could not find a suitable partner until Eric Thompson rode with him. The experiment proved an immediate success, and after winning the National championship they were chosen for the Olympics.

SCRAPBOOK: New York.

